

Innovation – Call I



The aim of the Call is to strengthen the innovation performance of domestic firms and to improve their competitiveness through increasing the use of unique know-how created in cooperation with the academic and research sector, expanding the know-how of firms for their own innovations and increasing the efficiency of internal processes in innovation management to drive an increase in the number of firms, mainly of local origin, in the position of technological leaders.

SCHEDULE

Receipt of aid applications:

- 1 September 2022 – 30 November 2022

AIDED ACTIVITIES

- Increasing the technical and utility values of products, technologies and services
- Improving the efficiency of production processes and services provision

APPLICANT

- The applicant is a natural person or a legal person that conducts business, has been assigned a Czech ID number and is authorised to conduct business¹.
- The applicant is authorised to conduct business activities that correspond to the economic activity² in which the project is implemented, no later than the date of submission of the last request for payment.
- According to the applicant's sworn statement, the applicant did not carry out a relocation³ to the establishment where it intends to make the initial investment for which aid is requested, within two years preceding the aid application.

¹ This means a trade license or an authorisation to conduct business under other legal regulations (unless otherwise specified in the Rules for applicants and beneficiaries of the OP TAC – special part).

² In the application in ISKP21+, the applicant indicated the CZ-NACE in which the project is implemented. The registered CZ-NACE must not be listed in the Annex to the Call entitled "Unaided CZ-NACE".

³ "Relocation" means the transfer of the same or similar activity or part thereof from an establishment in one contracting party to the EEA Agreement (initial establishment) to the establishment in which the aided investment takes place in another contracting party to the EEA Agreement (aided establishment). There is a transfer if the product or service in the initial and in the aided establishments serves at least partly the same purposes and meets the demands or needs of the same type of customers, and jobs are lost in the same or similar activity in one of the initial establishments of the beneficiary in the EEA.

- The applicant has provided information to the extent required under Section 14(3)(e) of Act No. 218/2000 Sb., on budgetary rules and amending some related acts (hereinafter the Budgetary Rules Act), as amended:
 - The applicant has entered information in IS KP21+ identifying the persons acting on behalf of the applicant, indicating whether they are acting as its statutory body or whether they are acting under a power of attorney.
 - The applicant has its beneficial owners of a legal person registered pursuant to Act No. 37/2021 Sb., on the registration of beneficial owners (compliance with this condition will be verified by the IB).
 - The applicant has entered information in IS KP21+ identifying the entities in which it has a holding and the amount of such a holding.
- According to the applicant's sworn statement, the applicant **is not in liquidation**.
- According to the applicant's sworn statement, the applicant has been registered as an income-tax payer in the Czech Republic for an uninterrupted period of no less than two tax periods⁴ preceding the date of the submission of the aid application.

TERRITORIAL DIMENSION

- Target territory: The territory of the Czech Republic, except for NUTS 2 Prague.
- The decisive factor for assessing local acceptability is not the registered office of the applicant (beneficiary), but rather the actual place where the project is to be implemented, i.e. the territory where the physical implementation takes place and where the project expenditure is incurred.

MAIN CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

- The project must not violate the EU horizontal policies and their basic principles. In particular, it is necessary to ensure compliance with:
 - the principles of non-discrimination (in particular non-discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, religion, ethnic origin, disability, age or sexual orientation),
 - the principles of sustainable development,
 - the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- The project's objectives must be in compliance with the objectives of the programme and of the Call.
- For projects whose total eligible expenditure is equal to / greater than CZK 5 million, the score received in a simplified economic assessment that represents the applicant's financial health must not be less than 5 points.
- According to the form of the declaration on the application of the DNSH principle, the project does no significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- According to the Climate proofing of infrastructure (CP) form, infrastructure investments meet the requirement for climate resilience in accordance with Article 73(2)(j) of Regulation (EU) 1060/2021 of the EP and of the Council.

⁴ This means a tax period according to Section 16b (for natural persons) / Section 21a (for legal persons) of Act No. 586/1992 Sb., on income taxes.

- At the stage of assessing formal requirements and acceptability, aid applications where the applicant has submitted a similar active project (any PP status) in the OP EIC will not be approved, unless the applicant has withdrawn from the project. A similar project means a project that has an identical place of implementation (down to the level of the municipality), similar activities and a similar budget size and structure. The aim of this measure is to prevent budget funds from being blocked by unfinished OP EIC projects that are resubmitted in identical or slightly modified form under the OP TAC. The project applicant must choose whether it can realistically complete the project under the OP EIC or whether it will terminate the administration of that project and submit the project under the OP TAC.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

- Project documentation including engineering (Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 on de minimis)
- Buildings (Article 14 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, the general block exemption regulation)
- Technologies (Article 14 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, the general block exemption regulation)
- Software and data (Article 14 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, the general block exemption regulation)
- Rights to use intellectual property (Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 on de minimis)
- Product certification (Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 on de minimis)

Tangible fixed assets and their technical improvement and intangible fixed assets must be:

- included in the assets of the beneficiary enterprise and must be used in the project for which the aid is granted for at least five years or, in the case of small and medium-sized enterprises, three years,
- new,
- a depreciable asset,
- must be used exclusively at the establishment for which the aid is intended.

FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

- The subsidy for a project is provided in an amount of no less than CZK 1 million⁵ and no more than CZK 40 million.
- Projects requesting less than the minimum subsidy amount, according to the aid intensity, are not acceptable and will not be accepted to the evaluation process. The maximum subsidy amount cannot be exceeded.
- The beneficiary must provide a financial contribution of at least 25% of the eligible expenditure, either from its own resources or through external financing, in a form that does not involve any public aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) of the TFEU.

⁵ Applies at the stage of approval by the selection committee.

Region	Small enterprise	Medium-sized enterprise	Small mid-cap company
Northwest	60%	50%	40%
Northeast	50%	40%	30%
Central Moravia	50%	40%	30%
Moravian-Silesian	50%	40%	30%
Central Bohemia – Mladá Boleslav, Beroun, Praha-západ, Praha-východ, Nymburk, Kolín, Příbram, Benešov, Kutná Hora	40%	30%	20%
Central Bohemia – Kladno, Rakovník, Mělník	45%	35%	25%
Southwest – Rokycany, Plzeň, Plzeň – jih, Domažlice, Klatovy, Písek, Tábor, Strakonice, České Budějovice, Jindřichův Hradec, Prachatice, Český Krumlov	40%	30%	20%
Southwest – Plzeň-sever, Tachov	45%	35%	25%
Southeast	40%	30%	20%